

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04148 271559Z
ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SP-02 PM-05 SS-15 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 /045 W
-----005260 271605Z /72

O 271539Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2221

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4148

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN MASS IS US
SUBJ: VANCE/BROWN BRIEFING FEBRUARY 14

REFS: (A) STATE 74288, (B) TEL AVIV 2842

1. RELEVANT PORTION OF ELI NISSAN REPORT REFERRED TO IN
REFTEL A AND SUMMARIZED IN MEDIA REACTION/PRESS REPORT
(REFTEL B), BROADCAST MARCH 1, IS SET FORTH BELOW.

2. POST DID NOT SPOT ANY OTHER SPECIFIC
BREAKING OF RULES IN FORCE AT FEBRUARY 14 BRIEFING.

3. ELI NISSAN IISRAEL RADIO, MARCH 1

BEGIN TEXT: "THE ISSUE OF SUPPLYING ISRAEL, EGYPT AND
SAUDI ARABIA WITH (US) PLANES HAS GROWN IN COMPLEXITY WITH
THE STATEMENT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN THAT THE
USG HAS HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FRENCH-EGYPTIAN DEAL
INVOLVING 46 MODERN F-1 WARPLANES. ANSWERING A QUESTION ON
THIS SUBJECT LAST NIGHT, SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID THAT
THAT DEAL
WAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN THE USG MADE UP ITS MIND TO
SUPPLY EGYPT WITH 50 F-5-ES. HOWEVER, THIS POINT WAS NOT AT ALL
MENTIONED IN THE RATIONALE THE ADMINISTRATION GAVE (FOR THE THREE
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 04148 271559Z

COUNTRY ARMS DEAL.). ON THE SAME DAY THAT SECRETARY VANCE
RELEASED HIS ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE ARMS PACKAGE DEAL, THE STATE
DEPARTMENT HELD A SPECIAL BRIEFING BY SO-CALLED SENIOR STATE
DEPT AND PENTAGON OFFICIALS. BEING ONE WHO TOOK PART IN THAT
BRIEFING, I ALLOW MYSELF NOW TO REVEAL THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS
WERE NONE OTHER THAN DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN AND SECRETARY OF STATE

VANCE. I AM IDENTIFYING THE TWO, BECAUSE THE STATE DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THAT BRIEFING.
THE SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE AND STATE HAD GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY
TO EXPLAIN WHY EGYPT NEEDED THE PLANES. THEY SAID THAT
THE EGYPTIAN ARSENAL HAS SHRUNK, BECAUSE OF THE SOVIET EMBARGO
ON PLANES AND PARTS TO THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE. BUT NEITHER OF
THEM SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE FRENCH-EGYPTIAN DEAL....".
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, SPEECHES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV04148
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780132-1200
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780321/aaaaarjn.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0aab12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 74288, 78 TEL AVIV 2842
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3191877
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VANCE/BROWN BRIEFING FEBRUARY 14
TAGS: SOPN, MASS, IS, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0aab12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014